

CHRIST OR BARABBAS?

A WORD ON MORMONISM.

"THIS KNOW ALSO, THAT IN THE LAST DAYS PERILOUS TIMES
SHALL COME."—*Tim. iii. 1.*

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A WORD ON MORMONISM.

“Dost thou believe in the Son of God?” If so, what have you to do with Mormonism—or the religion of Joseph Smith? If not, beware, lest having refused the truth of God, you are ensnared in the lie of Satan.

The Word of God says—“If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha”—that is, accursed when Christ shall come. This is indeed a solemn word! God will glorify the Lord Jesus Christ; “God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name above *every name*, that at the name of JESUS every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things on earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is LORD, to the glory of God the Father.” Phil. ii.

Now how does Mormonism treat the blessed Jesus, the Son of God? Mormonism gives to Joseph Smith the honour due alone to Jesus! Popery worships the Virgin Mary. The Mormon saviour is Joseph Smith!

Listen to the way in which they sing of that man, and you will know how true this is :—

“ The saints, the saints, his only pride,
For them he lived, for them he died.
Unchanged in death, with a Saviour’s love
He pleads their cause in courts above.”

Hymn 281.

Or, again, in hymn 273 :—

“ Great is his glory, and endless his priesthood,
Ever and ever the keys he will hold ;
Faithful and true he will enter his kingdom,
Crown’d in the midst of the prophets of old.”

Perhaps you can hardly believe that any men and women can be so wicked and deluded as to use such words of any one, except the Lord Jesus Christ. But in the Mormon hymn book you may see these lines in hymns to the praise of JOSEPH SMITH ! And there you may also see many hymns equally blasphemous. See hymns 273, 274, 277.

Is not Mormonism, then, the religion and worship of Joseph Smith ? Will you trust to such a rotten reed as this ; and so turn away from the Son of the living God ?

It may be, you have long heard the Gospel of God concerning His Son, and have not believed that Gospel. It may be, that from your childhood that sweet and glorious

Gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, has been sounding in your ears. Perhaps by voices now silent in death. But you have loved your own way; perhaps while wearing the Christian name, have loved sin; and thus Satan, the God of this world, has hardened your heart to this day. Well—Mormonism will not take the world from you—nor sin—nor Satan. You will find abundance of sin, and great worldly promises, and *Satan's power, too*, in Mormonism. “They are of the world, therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. 1 John iv. 5. “The whole world lieth in wickedness”—or in the wicked one. 1 John v. 20.

Beware, I beseech you, lest you should be given up, by God, to your own heart's lust. Read this solemn word—“For this cause God shall send them *strong delusion*, that they should *believe a lie*; that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” 2 Thess. ii. 11, 12. Why does God deal in this terrible way of judgment with men? The verse before will tell you—“*Because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*” Verse 10.

Jesus, the Son of God, was in the world,

and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. John i. 10. He testified of the world that the works thereof were evil. John vii. 7. He died to deliver all who believe in Him from this present evil world (Gal. i. 4), and from the coming wrath. 1 Thess. i. 10.

Now which is better, to believe in Jesus, the Son of God, and be saved from eternal death through Him, or to go on with the world, and be deceived by one lie of Satan after another, until you are lost for ever?

Perhaps you have been told that Joseph Smith is the prophet of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that Mormons receive him in this character. They do! They believe the lie; for it is all a crafty lie of Satan, to catch and ruin souls. "What fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial?" 2 Cor. vi. 14, 15. How utterly ignorant of the holy, spotless, Lamb of God must they be who think for a moment that he ever sent such a prophet as Joseph Smith; a man whose wicked life is so well known.

No! You cannot have both Joseph Smith, and Jesus, the Son of God. If you follow

the former, Christ shall profit you nothing! You can only have *one* Saviour. Oh! to whom will you go? "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved!" Be not like those who cried—"Not this man, but Barabbas!" For the Holy Ghost adds—" *Now Barabbas was a robber!*"

Think again of those lines you just now read:—

"Unchanged in death, with a Saviour's love
He pleads their cause in courts above."

If Joseph Smith had been one of the best of men, these lines would be equally wicked. The Papists worship the Virgin Mary. Now she was a widely different kind of person to Joseph Smith. By nature, indeed, they were equally corrupt—both born in sin and shapen in iniquity; but Mary found great grace with the Lord. She was saved by His mercy through Christ, her Lord; and honoured above all women as the mother of Jesus. But to worship her, or to pray to her, is wicked idolatry. Mary was, however, by the grace of God, a holy woman; but what shall we say of Joseph Smith? We read of Mary in the Bible—and of the love of Jesus, her son and her Lord, for her. But where in the Bible do we read of Joseph Smith? Do you think Mary would

have been a Mormonite? No! She trusted, and loved, and worshipped Jesus, the Son of God.

But those lines speak of Joseph Smith's love. What can his love be worth? What can a wicked, wretched sinner, such as Joseph Smith, do for you? Can he be a Saviour? Is it for *such* a Saviour that Jesus, the Son of God, is to be turned away from—and His love, which passeth knowledge, rejected? Surely, Satan has become *very* bold, and men *very* blind! He seems to reckon on catching souls now by almost any bait! Is the time of "strong delusion" from God really come?

And what saints are these whom Joseph Smith loves? Mormon saints! "Latter-day Saints," as they call themselves. Did you ever read what God says of the latter-day people. It is written in the 2nd Timothy, iii. chapter, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers

of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women, laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was." Alas! is not this a true description of Joseph Smith, and his apostles and elders, and priests and people?

In the Church of Rome there is one body of men called Jesuits, or, Jesus-ites! Men who call themselves by the holy name of Jesus. Now these men are so wicked, and so dangerous, that multitudes, even in the idolatrous Church of Rome, shrink from them.

So you see that the most wicked men call themselves by the most holy names. And thus Mormonites call themselves "saints," which means "holy ones." But those only are saints who are sanctified by faith in the one offering of Jesus. Heb. x. 10, 14. God calls all such saints; and the

fact of their being so called, tells of the blessedness and sufficiency of JESUS, as the *only* Saviour! For by faith in Him, and His one offering, *sinners* become *saints*—saints before God.

How truly awful, therefore, are those words, “Unchanged in death,” &c.

Alas! could we now see Joseph Smith, our eyes would behold a far different sight from this! Depend on it, he does not think himself a saviour *now*! Cut off in his sins, by a sudden and violent death,—where is he? Can he be in heaven, pleading for those on earth?

Nor is it the place of those who are gone to be with Christ—not of apostles, nor prophets, nor any—to plead in heaven for those on earth. There is but one advocate—but one intercessor—there! That one is *Jesus*, the Son of God. “For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens.” Heb. vii. 26. “We have *such* an high priest.” Heb. viii. 1.

Popery is a wonderful system of deceit, framed by Satan for the ruin of men, and the dishonour of Christ. Mormonism is another of his snares for catching souls. In both men are guided to false intercessors.

phemously dishonoured. For is it not blasphemy to take the highest honours from the head of Jesus, and put them on Joseph Smith; or on the Virgin Mary; or on any other creature? Oh, trust *only* in the Lord!

Reader! your only safety in these perilous times is in full faith in Jesus, the Son of the living God—some pit or other will swallow you up. Some trap of the enemy's will be your eternal destruction, unless you flee to Jesus, the *only* Saviour. As long as you go on in unbelief, you live both in sin and in danger. If you die as you were born, you must be lost!

And is sin so sweet to you, that for its sake you will lose your soul? Is the world so precious to you that rather than turn from it to Jesus you will perish with it for ever? Or is Jesus so worthless in your eyes—so unneeded by *you*—that you care nothing for His love, nor for His salvation? Have you no fear of God? No dread of His wrath? No longing for His pardon? No desire for His love?

If so, Mormonism and Joseph Smith will suit you well; as well as any other lie of him who deceiveth the nations.

But beware! All underneath that pathway lieth Hell! Sooner than you think the

pit may open wide her mouth and swallow you up. And *then* no Joseph Smith can deliver you! “None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him.” Psalm xlix. 7.

Ah! is it not the pride of your own heart, and your lust for earthly things, that is drawing you from Jesus into the paths of eternal death! “This is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, *because their deeds were evil.*” John iii. 19.

Fellow-believer in Jesus—beloved child of God, and member of Christ!—Let us be content with Him! We want no new thing. We know the truth of our blessed Lord’s own Word, “He that cometh to me shall *never hunger*; and he that believeth in me shall *never thirst.*” John vi. 35. What we want is, that the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ would grant us, according to His riches in glory, to be strengthened with might by His spirit in the inner man, *that Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith.*

Has He not fulfilled His own sweet promise, and given us *rest*? Rest in His love, and rest in His Father’s love; and rest, too, while wearing His easy yoke! Let us delight ourselves in Him, and wait for Him.

from heaven. "For yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry." Heb. x. 37.

Satan's snares surround us. They meet us at every turn. But in vain is the snare spread in the sight of any bird. Our safety, and our joy and our strength, are in abiding in Jesus. The night is far spent; the day is at hand. The enemy's time for seeking whom he may devour will soon end. Jesus will bruise Satan under our feet *shortly*.

Let us then constantly "Behold the Lamb of God." That which we had from the beginning, let us hold fast unto the end. Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever. He has said, "Lo I am with you alway—*even to the end of the age!*"

Paul, John, Peter, had Jesus as their ALL! They never even heard of Joseph Smith! They never worshipped the Virgin Mary, or any saints. Their only Saviour—Lord—High Priest,—their Head, and Hope, was Jesus, the Son of the living God. Let us also, by the grace of God, be content with Him. "Rooted and built up in Him." Thus we have both the Father and Christ revealed to our hearts by the Holy Ghost. Our green pastures, and our still waters, are ever fresh, and ever flowing. In the valley

of the shadow of death we fear no evil. When the heavens and the earth are shaken by the mighty God, we lift up our heads in hope.

We are not able to enter into a close examination of all the doctrines, and depths, and devices of Satan and of men. Nor are we called on to do so. We see the dark and slippery bye-paths, but we also hear and know our Shepherd's voice. The enemy weaves up much of the precious Word of our God in his lying devices; but let us so meditate in that pure Word itself, day and night, that we may detect the enemy's craft, and escape, through grace, his snare. "It is written"—said the tempter in the wilderness. "It is written *again*"—said the tempted, but always victorious, One. "By the *words of thy mouth* have I kept myself from the paths of the destroyer!" There is no sword like the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. If men *seem* to have some light—and some things they say *sound like* the Word of our God—let us remember that the ear *trieth* words as the mouth tasteth meats. Let us first try what *Gospel* men preach. Is it *Jesus*? Jesus, and the resurrection? Jesus and His blood? Is it the *Gospel*

of God concerning His Son? If not, let us give place to them, no, not for an hour! Let us refuse to follow them into any other of their teachings or prophesyings, if they are unsound as to the *one foundation*. Cross not the threshold of their camp, whatever attracts within—if Jesus Christ, and Him crucified, is not with them the only, and the all-sufficient, salvation. This will save us much lost labour; keep us from much which ensnares and defiles; and make us witnesses for Jesus.

Tried thus, we make short work with Mormonism. Yea, with Popery itself—that master-piece of Satan! And also with Unitarianism—Infidelity—and *every* form of Satan's deceit and wickedness.

They all reject JESUS—either openly or craftily. They all flatter the carnal heart—they are all enmity against God. The broken heart feeds in peace on the slain Lamb;—the humble hear of Him, and are glad. Oh, may the name of Jesus always be a holy, precious, sanctifying name to our souls.

One question, then, before men now is—Which Saviour will you have—Jesus, the son of God; or Joseph Smith?

Pilate said, “Will ye therefore that I

release unto you the King of the Jews?
 Then cried they all again, NOT THIS MAN,
 BUT BARABBAS. *Now Barabbas was a
 robber !*" John xviii. 39. 40.

Reader—what say *you* ?